

Chignals & Mashbury Community Jubilee Orchard

Minutes of the Chignal Parish Council

Orchard Sub-Committee Meeting

20th August 2021, in the Playing Field Gazebo

Present: Parish Cllrs: Lynn Ballard (Committee Chairman and Secretary); Jon Lewis

Co-opted members: Maggie Mills; Moira Tarrant

Apologies: Steve Middleditch; Sarah Scott.

The following matters and actions were discussed and agreed.

Agenda items	Action points	Responsible
1.Outstanding actions from 25th June 2021	<p>Production of laminated Activity Sheets for children which could be displayed in a perspex container attached to the shed.</p> <p>Collect seeds from flowering plants in the orchard for distribution at the Chignal Community Meeting on Climate Change on 2 October.</p> <p>Other Sub-Committee actions were picked up on the agenda.</p>	<p>MM</p> <p>MT/LB/JL/M M</p>
2.Orchard events, activities and marketing	<p>Community Picnic in the playing field, Sunday 5th Sept. Low key opportunity to encourage picnic goers to visit the orchard and to sign up to Orchard Friends. LB and MM to be on hand in the orchard to answer questions. If appropriate on the day, MM to organise a “scavenger hunt” for children to collect material from the orchard to create an artwork inside a twig frame.</p> <p>Fruit Celebration and St Nicholas Church Harvest Festival, 17th October 2021. Fruit Celebration will follow the 11.00 Harvest Festival service led by Canon Janet Nicholls, Rural Adviser & Agricultural Chaplain from around 12.00 – 2pm. MT and MM to set up tables and fruit display at 11.00. Ask participants to bring their own surplus fruit and preserves to share and re-useable bags to collect fruit. LB to book village hall provisionally in case of bad weather and open playing field for parking. Email information to Orchard Friends.</p> <p>Chignal News: article on Fruit Celebration for September edition. Deadline, end of August tbc with Editor.</p> <p>People’s Trust for Endangered Species: orchard now included in the national map of community orchards and information on our fruit tree cultivars included on their website.</p> <p>Community Meeting on Climate Change 2 Oct: review the orchard display produced by SM to see if it needs to be updated with new photos. Provide a display of apples for the event and include slides on the orchard for the Powerpoint presentation.</p> <p>Orchard Friends communications: dates of events above to be circulated.</p>	<p>LB/MM</p> <p>MT/MM</p> <p>LB</p> <p>MT/LB</p> <p>LB/MT</p> <p>LB/SM</p> <p>MT LB/JL LB</p>
3.Orchard maintenance	<p>Fruit trees. Aphids have damaged fruit trees again this year. MT has recorded information in a book on each tree and its management since planting. The extra rain this year has benefitted the trees but the unseasonably cold weather in spring reduced the number of insect pollinators at blossom time. This has affected fruit production. MT to investigate alternatives to plastic bags to store apples into the winter months.</p>	<p>MT</p>

	<p>Alitags tree plaques still not available but it was agreed to wait for these to be back in stock so that the new ones would match the originals and also have two holes to ensure that the tag lies flat and can be read easily. Fallen tags will be re-fixed with covered wire.</p> <p>Grass management: AS and LB have mowed paths and the entrance five times this year. JL and MM to receive training on mower use on 23 August. AS and JL have cut the vegetation on the mound and the same needs to be done to the ditch.</p> <p>Main orchard meadow cut: hired motor scythe is being repaired and may be available in the first week of Sept. May be able to use orchard mower to cut the whole of the orchard instead over a period of several days, (this would also be less disruptive to wildlife) having strimmed around the trees first. Agreed to try cutting the far end of the orchard with the mower on Monday 23 August from 9.30am and to take a decision on whether to cancel the motor scythe hire. A grass collector for the mower would help with removing the cut material in addition to using hand rakes: estimated cost £179 incl. VAT.</p> <p>Orchard wildflowers and wildlife update: MT reported that moth trapping had been successful and 4 or 5 species of bats were also recorded.</p> <p>Installing the new bench: bench to be installed with ground anchors along the fence between the air monitoring station and shed on 23 August during meadow cutting session.</p> <p>Shed: marquee to be moved into the new village hall storage building on 23 August. Alarm to be fitted.</p> <p>Orchard Information Panel: SM requested to circulate artwork for final approval by the committee. SM/Clerk to liaise with the contractor to erect frame. Consider whether the angle of the board should be altered to be more visible from the road, taking into account the impact of the prevailing wind.</p>	<p>SM</p> <p>JL</p> <p>AS/JL/MM</p> <p>AS/JL</p> <p>AS/LB/JL/M M</p> <p>AS/JL</p> <p>AS/JL/LB/M M SM</p>
4 .Review of the Orchard Committee Budget	<p><u>Balance (at August 2021):</u> £412.01 tbc</p> <p><u>Income:</u> none</p> <p><u>Approved new expenditure:</u> grass collector for mower £179 incl. VAT, (LB to check with Clerk whether this could be CIL funded); Perspex holder for Activity Sheets, cost tbc. Mulch may be required for 2022/23.</p> <p>Tree sponsorship: review budget for 2022 - 2025 to reflect annual motor scythe hire est. £120 may not be required if mower used and recalculate amount of increase required in income from tree sponsors over this 3 year period.</p>	<p>Clerk</p> <p>LB</p> <p>Clerk/LB</p>
5. ESORG	Visit to High Easter orchard on 20 Sept. Time tbc.	LB
6. Date of next meeting	Friday 8th October 2021 at 9.30am in the Gazebo	LB